

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A retrieval catheter, comprising:
 - a catheter wall defining a catheter lumen and a distal tip that is tapered toward an open distal orifice defining a distal end of the catheter lumen, the wall over the length of the tapered tip configured to distend to expand the distal orifice; and
 - a distender disposed in the catheter lumen and configured to press radially outwardly the catheter wall at the distal tip to expand the distal orifice, the distender having:
 - an annular distender ring, ~~and~~
 - a frusto-conical annular element co-axial with the annular distender ring ~~and ,the annular element~~ positioned proximal ~~thereof of the distender ring~~ with its larger diameter end contiguous therewith, ~~and~~ an axial lumen extending through the distender between the annular distender ring and the frusto-conical annular element,
 - a distal end annulus and a proximal end annulus separated by a radially outward-facing circumferential wall, wherein a portion of the circumferential wall is radially inside the frusto-conical annular element and co-axial with the annular distender ring, and
 - a pusher shaft that extends proximally beyond a proximal end of the catheter lumen and that is configured to push the distender distally until the annular distender ring is distal of the catheter distal orifice and the open distal orifice of the catheter is distended.

2. (Withdrawn) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the catheter is configured to aspirate material from a bodily lumen distal of the distal tip.

3. (Withdrawn) The retrieval catheter according to claim 2, including a distal aspiration port in the wall of the catheter adjacent to or at the distal tip.

4. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, configured as an over-the-wire catheter.

5. (Withdrawn) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, configured as a rapid exchange catheter, including a proximal guidewire exit port remote from the proximal end of the catheter.

6. (Withdrawn) The retrieval catheter according to claim 5, including a proximal aspiration port in the wall of the catheter distal of said guidewire exit port.

7. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, including a guide catheter with a lumen to receive the retrieval catheter.

8. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 7, wherein the guide catheter has a tapered distal end portion and the retrieval catheter is a snug fit with a distal end orifice of the tapered distal end portion of the guide catheter.

9. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the distender comprises radiopaque material.

10. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the catheter wall includes an annular radiopaque marker adjacent the distal tip.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the distender ring comprises radiopaque material.

13. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the annular distender ring exhibits an end face transverse to the axis of the lumen of the distender.

14. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, further comprising a device to be retrieved, the device including a pull line having a length to extend from the device to at least the proximal end of the catheter lumen, the annular distender ring configured to receive at least a proximal portion of the device.

15. (Withdrawn) The retrieval catheter according to claim 14, wherein the device is a lumen occlusion balloon.

16. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 14, wherein the device is a filter for filtering passage of bodily fluid within a bodily lumen.

17. (Previously presented) The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the pusher shaft comprises a stainless steel hypotube.

18-30. (Canceled).